

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 09504 220731Z

17

ACTION EA-09

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SUBJ: IRAN/THAILAND ECONOMIC RELATIONS

REF: TEHRAN 9293

1. GOI MINISTRY OF COMMERCE OFFICIAL AND THAILAND EMB ACTING COMMERCIAL ATTACHE SACKSIAM AMPLIFIED TO EMBOFF ON REPORT CONVEYED IN REFTEL CONCERNING POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS IN IRANIAN-THAI ECONOMIC RELATIONS. GOT MIN OF TRADE IS EXPECTED ON OR ABOUT OCT 19 TO INAUGURATE THE THAI EXHIBIT AT THE FOURTH TEHRAN INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR AND IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT HE WILL LEAD A DEL WHICH WILL ACCOMPLISH THE STUDY OF NIN IRAN REFERRED TO IN PARA 1 REFTEL. A THAI TRADE DEL VISITED IRAN IN DECEMBER 75 AND MADE A MARKET STUDY OF THE EXPORT POTENTIAL, BUT SACKSIAM SAID THE RESULTS WERE GENERAL IN NATURE, RELATING MORE TO THE ORGANIZATIONAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IRANIAN ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS. THE GOT SEES ITS PRIMARY EXPORT POSSIBILITIES IN AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, E.G. SUGAR AND RICE.

2. BILATERAL TRADE HAS BEEN NEITHER LARGE NOR DIVERSIFIED. THAI UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 09504 220731Z

EXPORTS TO IRAN IN THE IRANIAN YEAR ENDING MARCH 20, 1975 AMOUNTED

TO \$49 MILLION, 0.74 PERCENT OF IRAN'S TOTAL NON-MILITARY IMPORTS. OF THIS AMOUNT, \$45 MILLION WAS RAW SUGAR. IN THE MARCH-DECEMBER 75 PERIOD IMPORTS FROM THAILAND WERE VALUED AT \$41 MILLION, OF WHICH \$36 MILLION WAS SUGAR, WITH THE BALANCE CONSISTING OF CEMENT, JUTE AND OTHER TEXTILE FIBERS. IRAN'S NON-OIL EXPORTS TO THAILAND IN THE SAME TWO PERIODS VALUED \$950,000 AND \$500,000 RESPECTIVELY AND CONSISTED PRIMARILY OF COTTON AND UNWROUGHT ALUMINUM.

3. EMB HAS LEARNED LITTLE HERE CONCERNING THE PUBLICIZED THAI HOPE THAT THE GOI WOULD ASSIST IN BUILDING A PETROMICAL PLANT NEAR THAILAND'S GAS FIELDS (PARA 3, REFTTEL). SACKSIAM AGREED WITH EMB VIEW THAT THIS HOPE IS PROBABLY BASED ON THE RECENT VISIT TO THAILAND OF NIOC CHAIRMAN MANUCHEHR EGHBAL WHO HE SAID MET WITH THE GOT MINISTER OF COMMERCE.
HELMS

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